

1 Thessalonians Series: Gospel Living to the End Meeting Guide

Most questions are either taken from or adapted from John Stott's 1 & 2 Thessalonians Bible Study.

Date: May 5th and 6th

Pray

Apart from God, we can do nothing. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion. Throughout your time together, continue asking God for help.

Discuss

Read Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 together.

Bible Study

The bulk of your time will be spent discussing God's Word together.

Remember:

- Walk through the Bible study together using the HEAR method and talk about what stuck out most to you in the passage.
- Make sure you move discussion to the application section of your study.
- Affections, beliefs, and practices: Make sure to apply the passage to all of your life.

Apply

Review the habits and next steps listed in this week's review. Discuss how you'll put them into practice and seek to make a plan for how you'll hold one another accountable.

Habits

- Prepare for when you gather as the collective church.
- Resist temptations to forsake gathering together.
- Pray for discernment in listening to prophetic ministry.
- Pray and ask for grace to share prophetically with others in the gathered church.

Pray

Pray together for the Spirit's enablement to walk in new ways that are pleasing to the Lord and give Him glory in and through the church (both local and universal).

Bible Study:

 1 Thessalonians 5:15-22 *Exhortations for the Gathered Church*

"Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray constantly, ¹⁸give thanks in everything; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹Don't stifle the Spirit. ²⁰Don't despise prophecies, ²¹but test all things. Hold on to what is good. ²²Stay away from every kind of evil." (CSB)

"Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰Do not despise prophecies, ²¹but test everything; hold fast what is good. ²²Abstain from every form of evil." (ESV)

Open:

- As you consider the past year with COVID, what expectations should there be for the church to gather together physically moving forward?

Study:

- 1) Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-22 and make a list of the commands that Paul gives to this church.
- 2) What are your initial thoughts and observations about these commands and why they are necessary for when the church gathers?
- 3) What attitudes are affirmed in this passage of Scripture?
- 4) According to this passage of Scripture, what is the purpose of the gathering of Christians? How does joy in the Lord, prayer and thankfulness fit with public worship?
- 5) What does it mean to “*rejoice always*” and how does it relate to bad or difficult circumstances? What is the connection with the command to “*give thanks in all circumstances*”?
- 6) What does it mean to “*pray without ceasing*” for the Christian? How does this apply for the gathered church?
- 7) How does Paul in a short-hand way, remind this church of the effect of the gospel on one’s life? (consider vs. 18)
- 8) What is the purpose of prophecy and how might the church “*quench the Spirit*”?
- 9) What is to be the church’s response to prophetic ministry? What standards do we use to test whether a message or a messenger is from the Holy Spirit?

Apply:

- 1) In light of these commands, how might you need to change your preparations for gathering as the church?
- 2) How is God calling you to help see the church work in ways that nurture the health and growth of our church?

Pray:

- Thank God for the church He has called you to invest in and care for.
- Ask God for help to live out these commands in ways that bring Him honor and express love for your fellow brothers and sisters in the church.